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CPYRGHT

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# Washington Waits For Internal Break

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CPYRGHT The Union's Washington Bureau  
(Copley Press Leased Wire)

WASHINGTON—America's super-secret international sleuthing organization, the Central Intelligence Agency, has taken on an all-important new task since the death of Josef Stalin.

Before the Soviet ruler suffered his fatal stroke, C.I.A. agents were charged with the responsibility of checking on reports that there were growing signs of instability within the Kremlin.

Now these agents who roam the world as "correspondents" for the United States government have been given an even greater task. They must attempt through any means possible to chart the day-to-day impact of Stalin's death on the Russian government.

The reports these agents send home via secret channels—even more hush-hush than the diplomatic pouch—will help State Department strategists particularly to plan moves in the new psychological warfare being aimed at Moscow.

## Watching for Discord

Perhaps the most vital phase of the C.I.A.'s new assignment is the task of getting an accurate assessment of the often-reported friction between the new premier, Georgi Malenkov, and Laurenti Beria, deputy premier and head of the Russian police.

Malenkov's designation as premier doesn't necessarily end the old feud between these two over the issue of personal power, according to diplomats familiar with Russia.

So long as he remains as head of the all-powerful Soviet police, Beria will be a constant threat to Malenkov's uneasy leadership, in their opinion. This will be true especially if Malenkov is unable to consolidate his own new power by gathering closely about him the same sub-leaders that virtually ate out of Stalin's hand.

State Department experts on Russia insist that no one, Malenkov included, can take over Stalin's authority without losing it. The agency's role is to watch for signs of a power struggle and to report on it.

## Position Weak Now

Malenkov is prime minister and secretary general of the communist party. But he still must rule by majority votes in the Presidium until he can prove himself as a leader cast in the mold of a Stalin and can dominate others by the sheer force of will and personality.

This day may never come, U. S. diplomats believe, especially if Beria, Molotov and other Kremlin leaders attempt to undercut Stalin's heir apparent.

All these developments must be watched closely by our diplomats and C.I.A. agents if they can get close enough to the Kremlin for firsthand observation. How the C.I.A. operates, of course is one of the really well-kept secrets in Washington.

While you won't read of this agency's exploits in the headlines, what it accomplishes will help largely to influence U. S. strategy aimed at keeping Russia off balance so her leaders won't have time to think about further world conquest.

## Symptoms of Decay

Even before Stalin's death, diplomats could read signs of greater Russian instability than at any time since 1938. They saw the signals first in a sudden new outbreak of purges early this year.

Almost certainly, diplomats believe, one factor behind the purges was a renewed struggle between Malenkov, then party manager, and Beria, the police boss.

How will the C.I.A. go about assessing the new situation in Moscow? Even if reporters could find out they wouldn't be able to tell you without spilling some of this nation's most valuable secrets. This much can be said, however:

The C.I.A., peacetime counterpart of the World War II-spawned Office of Strategic Services, is headed by a man who played an important role in O.S.S. operations. He is Allan Dulles, brother of Secy. of State John Foster Dulles.

As wartime European director of O.S.S., Allan Dulles arranged for the surrender of 1,500,000 Germans under Gen. Von Kesselring even before Hitler capitulated.

The C.I.A. would be an important part of any such moves to help liberate nations under the shadow of the Soviet iron fist. But again, you won't read about this in the headlines—at least not for quite a long while.

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